1941

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RECTOR'S REPORT

FORTY-FIFTH CONVOCATION OF LOYOLA COLLEGE

Presiding at Convocation for the first time as Rector of Loyola College, I should like you to understand how happy I am to welcome here this evening so many of our friends. I wish also to express publicly my appreciation of the good work done by my immediate predecessor, Father Hugh McCarthy.

The student enrolment during the past year has been the largest in the history of Loyola. Class work throughout the year reached a satisfactory standard. All those who witnessed the academic display of last April and the elocution contest last month were highly impressed by the students' knowledge of their class matter and their ability to express themselves publicly. We cannot overlook the distracting influence of the war and of the intense military training that the students have undergone, yet this satisfactory scholastic standing has been maintained by the increased application of the student body and the unstinted zeal of the teaching staff. The intensity of war work has been far from harmful for any serious student, due largely to the whole-hearted cooperation of the Military Authorities.

It is a pleasure for me to pay public tribute to the splendid cooperation of all my associates on the faculty, Religious and Lay. I can hardly express my deep appreciation of the persevering devotion of one member of the

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staff who completes this month his twenty-fifth year as professor of music at Loyola, Mr. Jean Drouin.

Debating was carried on at the high level reached in former years. This is true of both inter-class debates and outside debates. Our dramatic productions were very well received. The major play of the year "Brother Orchid" elicited high praise from all who saw it. The Sodality of Our Lady, which is the primary extra-curricular interest in all Jesuit Colleges, continued its work with undiminished fervour. Besides the ordinary exercise of devotion for their own santification, the sodalists visited many poor families and helped them materially. We are proud of the number of our former students and professors who have reached the priesthood. Among the priests ordained last year are - Fathers Ambrose, McDonald and Penny of the Diocesan Clergy; Fathers Stephen Wertynski and Joseph Regnier, O.M.C.; Fathers Crusoe, Hodgins, McCaffrey, McHardy and Hegarty, S. J. This year's group includes Thomas McNamara of the Sault Ste.Marie diocese; Matthew Dubee and James Danaher of the Montreal Diocese - these three will be ordained next Saturday. The Jesuits to be ordained this summer are Messrs. Costello, Connor and MacKenzie.

Our Alumni continue to distinguish themselves in various fields. The Hon. Mercier Gouin has been raised to the Senate; Robert Laurier has been made Minister of Mines in Ontario; Colonel George Vanier, immediately upon his return from Paris where he was Canadian Minister, was appointed to the

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Permanent Joint Defence Committee for the United States and Canada; Victor Walsh has been made Air Commodore for Eastern Canada; Charles G. Power now holds the important position of Minister of Air Defence. Those of our Alumni who are engaged in studies at Universities have, according to reports at hand, acquitted themselves well. Eugene Gavin, a graduate of our High School, obtained first place in a class of one hundred and seventy-six Freshmen at Fordham University; at McGill University, Brock Clark was first in second year Law; Guy Joron and Albert Verdicchio graduated in Medicine, Edgar Bronstetter and William Power, in Law.

It is worthy of record that more than two hundred of our Alumni are now in active service, on land, at sea and in the air. Our young officers, according to many complimentary reports received, are proving themselves worthy of their commissions, and they are in ever-increasing demand. In active service as chaplains are three former professors of Loyola - Fathers McNeil, Penfold and Smeaton. It is with regret that we pay tribute to the memory of Commander Roy and Thomas Kirkwood of the Royal Canadian Navy; also of Albert Lewis, Royal Canadian Air Force, fatally injured in a flying accident.

The Loyola Alumni Ladies' Auxiliary sponsored a very successful series of lectures, highly appreciated by large audiences. These ladies have just announced the granting of a scholarship for a complete High School and College course. This will be awarded to the winner of competitive examinations

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to be held this month.

Our students have acquitted themselves well in athletic activities, and these activities are not confined to a few specialists; they are the beneficial pasttime of the many. Their games are always of great interest to the Faculty and to our many loyal supporters. While we shared their joy in their victories, still we were also impressed by the excellent spirit our boys showed in all their games. This spirit combined with the exercise of the game justifies the place athletics hold in our curriculum.

We were pleased to welcome to dinner at the close of the athletic year the fathers of many of our students. We hope to welcome more parents next year, as we think it is of great importance to have their close cooperation in all our activities.

Our Officer's Training Corps has given in a striking way tangible proof of Loyola's devotion to the cause in this war. These young officers are manifesting the same spirit of sacrifice and unquestioned loyalty to His Majesty the King that was so conspicuous twenty-five years ago. The Officer Commanding, Colonel John Long, and his assistants, Major Hankey and Major Brennan, deserve our highest praise. At a banquet held recently at the Windsor Hotel, Colonel Long received His Majesty's Efficiency Decoration. The Loyola Map Reader, designed by our graduate, Major Brennan, is now used extensively, and most probably will be made a general issue of

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the Army. During the past year, the maximum strength of our unit was six hundred and twenty-seven. In the recent military examinations, our boys obtained in the first paper an average of 82%; and in the second paper, the high average of 92%. This is especially striking when we realize that the general average for all units was 60%.

We should like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to many benefactors: to those who continue faithfully to subscribe to the Maintenance Fund; to Mrs. C. A. Phelan and family for their generous donation which made possible the completion of our foyer; to Mrs. J. Stanford and Mrs. N. Timmins for gifts of money to the Library; to many donors of books, particularly Mrs. L. I. McMahon who gave us about nine hundred volumes from the collection of her late husband, Lawrence I. McMahon K.S.G.; to Mrs. J. G. Bernard for a superb gold chalice in memory of her late nephew Samuel Hutchinson, Loyola graduate of 1938; to the Altar Society of St. Ignatius Parish for a complete set of silk vestments for the Community Chapel.

When the refugee question became of prime importance last summer, Loyola opened its doors and welcomed all who applied; we refused no one. This policy was blessed later on in the year, when a group of generous Catholic men of prominence, under the leadership of our devoted alumnus, our speaker this evening, Mr. John Hackett, volunteered to help finance the education of those who had lost all their possessions in invaded countries. This policy of open hospitality has been more than

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justified by the very high class standing of our guests from abroad.

When we celebrated the fourth centenary of the founding of the Society of Jesus in April, we were honoured by the presence of our esteemed Archbishop, Msgr.Charbonneau, who celebrated Pontifical High Mass in the College Chapel. His sincere words on that occasion, and the presence of the parish priests and curates of the city, encourage us in our efforts to supplement their apostolic work for the Catholic community of Montreal.

And now a final word to those young men whose college work is being crowned this evening. --Last night, in a less formal gathering, I spoke to you of our wishes and hopes for you. Here in the presence of your parents and friends, I wish to testify again to our pride in you, and to reassure you that we of the faculty will follow you with our prayers and with keen interest in your welfare. We wish you were going forth into a more settled world, but we do know that you go forth prepared. You can best serve your God and your country by adhering faithfully to the Catholic principles you have been taught during your course at Loyola. - May God bless and protect you.

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